

Mimulus Memo



"Anyone-Can-Grow" Favorites

by Monica Tudor

WHEN FOLKS ASK ME HOW TO TAKE CARE OF A PLANT, THEY usually are asking about how much water and what kind of sun exposure it needs. They almost never ask about the kind of soil the plant prefers. But the kind of soil in the garden (or pot) is just as important as the amount of water or sun. When I find a plant that is tolerant of variances in soil, sun, and water, it makes me believe I'm a gardener.

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For background information, I've got sand and dirt in my yard. No clay, but in some places the dirt is really packed down. I've also got wetter areas and drier areas, as well as full sun to filtered shade. I'll often place several of the same type of plant in different parts of the garden to see where they like it the best. Here are four examples of my "anyone can grow" favorites and how they have grown in my garden's microenvironments.

Let's take a look at *Baileya multiradiata*, or desert marigold. In my garden, this plant got started from a packet of mixed wildflower seeds from the online shop of Theodore Payne Nursery. It's a great plant to use since it can tolerate a wide variety of conditions and is self-propagating, but not invasive. *Baileya* is considered a short-lived perennial, lasting 3-4 years. It will eventually grow into a mound and carries many small, yellow, daisy-shaped flowers above the fuzzy leaves. *Baileya* blooms almost all year



Garden View with Allen Chickering Sage, *Baileya*, *Salvia*, etc.

SEPTEMBER 2013

CONTENTS

- Native-Plant Gardening - 1
- Botanizing at 10,000 feet - 3
- Wind Wolves Field Trip Notes - 4
- Field Trip Photos - 5
- Program Topics - 6
- Resources - 6

EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- 19 — Meeting: Plant ID, 6 pm
- Program: California Oaks, 7 pm

OCTOBER

- 17 — Meeting: Plant ID, 6 pm
- Program: CNPS Education, 7 pm

FALL PLANT SALE- CANCELLED

NOVEMBER

- 21 — Meeting: Plant ID, 6 pm
- Program: Xeriscaping, 7 pm

DECEMBER

No December Meeting.

JANUARY

- 16 — Meeting: Plant ID, 6 pm
- Program: TBA, 7 pm
- POTLUCK

"Anyone Can Grow" Favorites (Continued)



Baileya multiradiata in hard-packed dirt with very little water.



Baileya multiradiata in dirt with occasional water.



Baileya multiradiata in sandy soil with regular water.

long. In the winter, it gets ratty and I'll chop it down to about 6 inches tall so it can look fresh come spring.

I'll gather the *Baileya* seeds in fall and sprinkle them where I want some plants. The seeds will sprout the following spring. The seedlings can be transplanted, too. I've had the best luck transplanting *Baileya* seedlings when they are 3-4 inches or shorter.

Baileya multiradiata grows in sand and in dirt, preferring full sun to partial light shade. In sand, they can tolerate regular garden water. Some *Baileya* plants self-sowed between my fruit trees and they are doing quite well. They are in sand and get regularly watered, so they grow quickly and are taller, but looser in form. In dirt with water, they are well-shaped and are in almost constant flower. When they are in dirt with no water, they are very small and don't flower much but they will survive just fine.

Muhlenbergia rigens, or **Deer Grass**, is another plant that can handle multiple garden

conditions. In my garden, it does not vary in size as much as *Baileya* does, but the differences in water and soil still have a noticeable impact on the individual plants. The original plants in my garden came from the CNPS plant sale some years ago, but they are also carried by local nurseries. The original plants are in drier dirt, well packed; one is in full sun, the others in part light shade. They are well-mannered and have not self-sown. I saw some Muhleys growing in a meadow in Yosemite, so I wanted to see what would happen in my garden if a Muhley were in moister soil. I dug one of my existing plants and split it several ways to get more plants. Some divisions were planted in a spot that got regular water and looser soil, others in a drier spot with more compacted soil. The plants with regular water are waist-high and the leaves are

beautifully green through and through. The ones in drier areas are growing, but more slowly, and their leaves are mixed green and brown.

There are lots of sages in my garden. I like their scent and their hardiness. My two favorite varieties are called **Allen Chickering** and **Winifred Gilman**. Yup, both varieties are planted in sandy dirt as well as packed dirt. Both are tough, but the Allen Chickering is more drought tolerant. Winifred looks better with occasional-to-weekly watering, especially when it gets really hot, while Allen can do well with less than half the water

Winifred gets. I have not been successful in propagating these sages, but that's OK since they are readily available in the local nurseries. Like the Bailey and the Muhley, the sages can tolerate weekly watering and grow larger in the sandy parts of my garden.

Don't know where to start with native plants for your garden? Give these a try. ■

For readers desiring a tour of my garden, I have a few dates in September and October available. Please contact me in advance at dosportas@msn.com or 661 808 8387

Destroying species -

is like tearing pages out of an unread book, written in a language humans hardly know how to read, about the place where they live.

— Holmes Rolston III, professor of philosophy (b. 1932)



Muhlenbergia rigens in sandy soil and regular water.



Muhlenbergia rigens in packed dirt and little water.

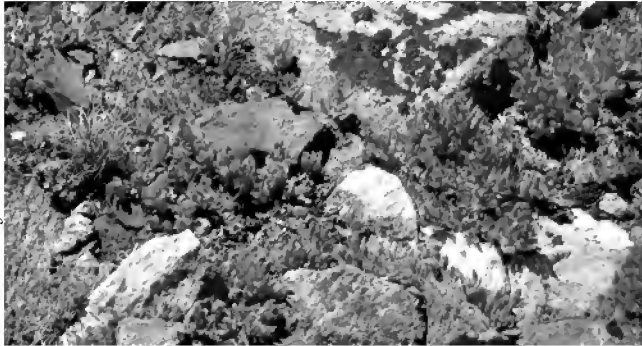
Photos - Monica Tudor

Botanizing at 10,000 feet

by Nancy Nies

IN MID-AUGUST PAUL AND I MADE OUR annual pilgrimage to the Yosemite high country, where we took several day hikes at between 8,000 and

Photos - Nancy Nies



Stonecrop, *Sedum obtusatum*

10,700 feet. We were pleasantly surprised, in this dry year, to see many wildflowers in bloom. Paul carried three books on Sierra botany in his knapsack and identified plants as we hiked, while I did my best to capture them with my camera.

When we arrived at Tioga Pass, we took the half-mile Nunatak nature trail, just east of the park boundary. Along the way, we were welcomed to the Sierra by the showy white umbels of yampah (*Perideridia parishii*), the purplish-pink petals of fireweed (*Epilobium angustifolium*), and the fuzzy deep-pink clusters of mountain spiraea flowers (*Spiraea densiflora*), among others.

Our first day-hike took us from White Wolf to Lukens Lake, on a moderate trail leading through a mixed-conifer forest, then cross-country, up a ridge to the southeast of the lake. Particularly plentiful were the yellow-orange plumes of alpine goldenrod (*Solidago multiradiata*), the white flowerheads of both yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) and yampah, the composite yellow blooms of arrow-leaf senecio (*Senecio triangularis*), and the lavender alpine aster (*Aster alpigenus*), the latter much frequented by orange butterflies. Rare on that trail, but also spotted, were the light-pink little elephant's head (*Pedicularis attollens*), the yellow cinquefoil (*Potentilla gracilis*), the white catchfly (*Silene bernardina*), the lavender-pink shooting star (*Dodecatheon jeffreyi*), the crimson columbine (*Aquilegia formosa*), and the white Coulter's daisy (*Erigeron coulteri*). The open, decomposed granite ridgetop area was home to yellow sulfur flower (*Eriogonum umbellatum*), mousetail ivesia (*Ivesia santolinoides*) with its small white flowers, and California red fir (*Abies magnifica*), topped with distinctive cones.

Another day, we made the strenuous hike from Tuolumne Meadows to Budd Lake and up to the saddle between Cathedral Peak and the Cockscomb. Botanical highlights included yellow sulfur flower, blue broad-leaf lupine (*Lupinus latifolius*), lavender-tinged pennyroyal (*Monardella odoratissima*), rosy-red pussypaws (*Calyptidium umbellatum*), and deep-red mountain sorrel (*Oxyria digyna*). Especially noteworthy that day was a profusion of large monkeyflower (*Mimulus tilingii*?), its 1 to 1 ½-inch, bright-yellow blooms lining the bases of tall granite walls.

On our last day, we hiked from the Tioga Pass park entrance station up to the Gaylor Lakes and Granite Lakes area. Near Middle Gaylor Lake, we saw the greenish-white flowers of the corn lily (*Veratrum californicum*) and the magenta bracts of Lemmon's paintbrush (*Castilleja lemmonii*). On the dry, rocky slopes between Upper Gaylor Lake and Granite Lakes, we found — in addition to abundant yarrow and alpine goldenrod — creamy-white ranger's buttons (*Sphenosciadium capitellatum*) the yellow disk flowers of both silky raillardella (*Raillardella argentea*) and green-leaf raillardella (*Raillardella scaposa*), the bright-red succulent stonecrop (*Sedum obtusatum*), yellow bush cinquefoil (*Potentilla fruticosa*), purple whorled penstemon (*Penstemon heterodoxus*), and one lone, cream-colored mariposa lily (*Calochortus leichtlinii*?). Just to the south of Upper Granite Lake, we happened upon a moist hillside garden, thick with tall flowering plants: yellow senecio, blue broad-leaf lupine, red Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja miniata*), and lavender swamp onion (*Allium validum*). In the meadow at the outlet of Lower Granite Lake, we were excited to discover dozens of deep-purple Sierra gentian flowers in bloom (*Gentian holopetala*).

We had a botanically memorable visit to Yosemite this summer, and made a couple of related discoveries that may be of interest to CNPS members. At Siesta Lake, on the Tioga Road just southwest of White Wolf, you can find what we were told is the only native pond lily. Also, if you are traveling north through the Owens Valley on 395, we can recommend stopping at the Eastern California Museum in Independence to visit the Mary DeDecker Native Plant Garden, planted in 2001 and maintained by volunteers from the Bristlecone chapter of CNPS. ■



Mimulus tilingii(?)
large monkey flower

Wind Wolves Field Trip

by Lucy Clark

ON MAY 11TH LAST SPRING, 14 LOCAL CNPS members were joined by guests from the SLO and LA/Santa Monica Mountains chapters, for a beautiful tour of the largest privately-owned nature preserve in California. Our favorite guide, naturalist and long-time friend **Dave Clendenen**, showed us wide vistas of our valley, the foothills, and downward views from the van windows into very deep ravines. We started in the valley, admiring the new headquarters with the wildlife mural painted by **Nancy Putney**, and the beautiful landscaping with native plants.



Photo: Clyde Golden

Navarretia setiloba,
Paiute Mountain
pincushion plant

Dave drove us to a plot where pads of the rare Bakersfield cactus had been planted in cages for their protection. All had been collected on site, to keep the local DNA pure, while increasing the species' numbers. We were watched by a couple of coyotes up on the hilltop, and watched them back with our binoculars! We drove upward, stopping to see and photograph plants in bloom, and the view that emerged around that next curve.

The tiny flower pictured is the rare 1.B1 *Navarretia setiloba*, Paiute Mountain navarretia, white morph, found up high in the oaks, and many deep blue morphs were found in between the tracks in the road! We had our lunch in the shade, sitting on the ground, and looking north beyond Bakersfield down in the valley.

Although it was a dry spring, there were individual stands of some other lovely flowers, such as *Del-*

phinium patens, *Layia heterotricha* - pale yellow layia, *Clarkia purpurea* ssp. *quadrivulnera* - wine cup clarkia, *Lupinus*, *Leptosiphon ciliatus* - whiskerbrush, *L. parviflorus*, *Gilia capitata* - globe gilia, and our California poppy. Along with the camaraderie of plant lovers, we also enjoyed the soaring golden eagle on our way back down. It was a memorable trip, for which we owe Dave a well-deserved "Thank you!" ■



Photo: Dinah Campbell

Cream cups, poppies and lupine

Thank you to:

...all of the field trip leaders and program speakers these past few months:

Alison Sheehy for leading the field trip to Saddle Springs Road in the Paiute Mountains. It was a first-time visit for many of us to this nearby botanical treasure.

Pam DeVries for her excellent presentation at our June meeting and for hosting the field trip to beautiful Mt. Pinos in the Los Padres National Forest.



Photo: Jackie Kucak

Calochortus venustus, mariposa
lily surrounded by buckwheat

A Rondel for Wind Wolves

WE stopped for lunch way up above
the freeways and the urban sprawl
on granite rocks where lichen crawl
beneath an ancient blue oak grove

here flowers never push or shove
sun, soil and air for each and all
we stopped for lunch way up above
the freeways and the urban sprawl

the orange glow of poppy love
you'll never see in shopping malls
with petals fine as antique dolls
winnowing like windy wolves
we stopped for lunch way up above
the freeways and the urban sprawl

— Suzanne Weller

Field Trip Moments —

Mt. Pinos & Wind Wolves

Photo: Nancy Nies



Mt. Pinos Trip: Heading to the top of Mt. Pinos.

Photo: David Davis



Mt. Pinos Trip: Mary Ann Lockhart and Kathy Wesley surrounded by lupine.

Photo: Dinah Campbell



(left) **Wind Wolves Trip:**
Amsinckia tessellata,
bristly fiddleneck.

Wind Wolves Trip:
Navarretia setiloba,
Paiute Mtn.
pincushion plant.



Photo: Jackie Knowlton



Photo: Jackie Knowlton

Wind Wolves Trip:

Looking into the
valley from Wind
Wolves Preserve.

(right) **Mt. Pinos Trip:**

Guinevere Ellison,
in the treetops on Mt.
Pinos.



Photo: David Davis

The Field Trip Committee

will be planning more field
trips for this coming season.
If you have suggestions please
e-mail them to Lucy Clark
(lucyg391@gmail.com)
and Patty Gradek
(pattygradek@gmail.com).



Photo: Jackie Knowlton

(above)
Wind Wolves Trip:
Balsamorhiza sagittata,
arrowleaf balsamroot).

(left)
Wind Wolves Trip:
Patty and Dale Gradek.

Photo: Dinah Campbell



Chapter Meetings

upcoming TOPICS

Thursday, September 19, 2013 - 7pm

Jon Hammond, Tehachapi photographer and essayist, will lecture on California native oaks.

Thursday, October 17, 2013 - 7pm

Josie Crawford, educator, naturalist and biologist, with 15 years experience teaching about plants, will speak on CNPS's Education Programs.

Thursday, November 21, 2013 - 7pm

Richard Shiell, a popular gardening columnist for the *Bakersfield Californian*, will speak on xeriscaping.

December: NO MEETING

Thursday, January 16, 2014 - 7pm

Program: TBA - POTLUCK

All chapter meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of each month, except as noted above, at the Hall Ambulance Community Room 1031 21st Street (21st & N St.), Bakersfield, CA.

Meeting times:

6 pm — Plant keying and identification

7 pm — Program presentation

Local CNPS Leader Wins Award

The Small Wind Conference presented **Paul Gipe** with its first **Lifetime Achievement Award** on 19 June 2013 at its annual award ceremony in Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

...Traditionally, the conference presents two awards: one for advocacy of small wind turbines, and another for a model dealer of small wind turbines..... This year the conference added a new category for lifetime achievement.

Before naming Gipe as the recipient of the new award, conference organizer Mick Sagrillo read an extensive passage from Robert Righter's 1996 book *Wind Energy in America: A History* on Gipe's pioneering role in the early days of the wind industry in the US. ■



Resources:

EVER feel like you have "Teflon®-brain" when it comes to fixing new plant names and terms in your memory? [Quizlet.com](http://www.quizlet.com) is a website where you can create on-line flashcards (using your own photos if you like). After each field trip, I upload my flower photos and create flashcards so I can practice the new names. Flashcard sets can be made public and shared with others — or not. Quizlet also can create varieties of review quizzes — multiple choice, matching, true/false — using your data. In addition, there's an app for the iPhone and iPad, so you take your cards with you. — ed.



INTERESTED in attending the **CNPS Chapter Council meeting & Conservation Symposium, September 6-8, 2013** hosted by the North Coast Chapter in Trinidad, CA? For information on topics, events, field trips, and registration visit: <https://sites.google.com/site/cnpschapter-councilsept2013/home>. **Deadline is Sept. 3!**

WANT to learn more about how to collect data and conduct reliable scientific surveys for rare plants, rare plant communities, vegetation and wetlands? CNPS is offering members discounted registration fees for **Plant Science Workshops**. A course, titled **Vegetation Rapid Assessment/Relevé**, and taught **Sept. 10-12, 2013**, will be a combination of lecture and field exercises in vegetation sampling focusing on collecting data using the CNPS-CDFW method of the same name. For details see: www.cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/.

A **FULL DAY** of information about native plant gardening, sponsored by the CNPS Sierra Foothills Chapter, is planned for September 14, 2013 in Sonoma, CA at the Mother Lode Fairgrounds. Three speakers with extensive experience in their fields — creating backyard habitats, landscape consulting, and planning a garden for all seasons — will conduct the symposium. For information and registration contact **Patricia Hohne** (209) 352-4312, phohne@gmail.com, www.sierrafoothillscnps.org.

AN UNEXPECTED SOURCE of information on native plants was suggested by **Sasha Honig**.

The US Dept. of Transportation/Federal Highway Administration incorporates “natural environmental protection and enhancement into the transportation decision-making process.” At this website you can find a wealth of information on environmental concerns that the highway administration takes into account — environmental law, wetlands, ecosystem management, wildlife vehicle collision reduction, preventing highways from becoming corridors for the spread of invasive species.

(www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/ecosystems/index.asp)

One of the resources it recommends is “*Roadside Use of Native Plants*” which is posted online on their website. Resources that home native gardeners might use are the plant lists, listed by state, of native plants for landscape use. The link for the California native plant list is www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/ecosystems/vegmgmt_rd_ca.asp. Hardcopy versions of the handbook are available online through Island Press or by calling (800) 828-1302.

FALL PLANT SALE CANCELLED!!

The Oct. 26th Fall Plant Sale has been cancelled this year. We hope to resume the sale in 2014.

Stay tuned for the possible appearance of a Kern CNPS booth at the Farmers Market (3201 F. St., Golden State Mall 93301) toward the end of October, where plants and books may be available.



Take Action to Protect Pollinators

This on-line letter comes from the Executive Director of the **Xerces Society**:

Dear Friend,



Two weeks ago, (June 20, 2013) the largest native bee kill ever recorded occurred in Wilsonville, Oregon. More than 50,000 bumblebees died when 55 linden trees were sprayed with the pesticide dinotefuran (also known as Safari) in a Target parking lot. This loss represents potentially hundreds of wild bumblebee colonies. Incidents like this one can easily go unnoticed, and may be happening frequently. The pesticide responsible belongs to a relatively new and controversial group of chemicals called neonicotinoids. Neonicotinoids are highly toxic to bees, very long-lasting, and because they make flower nectar and pollen poisonous, there are growing concerns about their safety for pollinators. This year, the European Union cited risks to pollinators and banned certain uses of neonicotinoids for the next two years.

In urban areas, pesticides are used primarily for cosmetic purposes - to have a weed-free lawn, a blemish-free rose, or an aphid-free linden tree. The risk of losing valuable pollinators, such as bees, far outweighs any benefit of this type of cosmetic use.

These products have a wide variety of names (list of names). However, they all have one thing in common: they contain toxic neonicotinoid insecticides.

To prevent more large-scale bee poisonings, pollinators need your help.

Today, ask your mayor, city council, or county commissioners to:

- Stop using neonicotinoid pesticides on property they manage.
- Require warnings be posted alongside displays of these chemicals at hardware stores and nurseries.
- Ban the use of neonicotinoids for cosmetic purposes on ornamental and landscape plants within their jurisdiction (similar to the ban now in force in Ontario, Canada).

You can protect bumblebees and other pollinators from these highly toxic insecticides.

For the bees,
Scott Black, Executive Director



Mimulus Memo



Inside this Issue:

NATIVE-PLANT GARDENING
BOTANIZING AT 10,000 FEET
MEETING PLACE, DATES & TOPICS

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Newsletter – Dinah Campbell..... mimulus.memo@gmail.com



CALIFORNIA
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

The Kern Chapter of the California Native Plant Society meets the third Thursday of each month at Hall Ambulance Community Room, 1013 21st St. (21st & N St), Bakersfield, CA. Chapter Website: kern.cnps.org

The California Native Plant Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of California's native plants and their natural habitats, and to increasing the understanding, appreciation, and horticultural use of native plants. CNPS has 31 chapters throughout the state and membership is open to all persons, professional and amateur, with an interest in California's native plants. Members have diverse interests including natural history, botany, ecology, conservation, photography, drawing, hiking and gardening. As a Kern County resident, your membership includes Fremontia, a quarterly journal with articles on all aspects of native plants; the Bulletin, a statewide report of activities and schedules; and The Mimulus Memo, the newsletter of the Kern Chapter.

Join CNPS or renew your membership online at www.cnps.org.

Student/ Limited Income – \$25

Individual – \$45

Family or Library – \$75